

# Afghanistan *Freedom* Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan *Watch*

January 9, 2006



*Medics train  
to extract  
wounded troops  
by helicopter*

*Page 8*





**Army Sgt. Eugene Reckenridge adjusts an Internet connection at a base in Mazaffarabad, Pakistan. Reckenridge is a satellite technician with the 44th Signal Company.**

Photo by Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie,  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**Cover: Army Staff Sgt. Adam Byington lifts a Soldier into a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during a live-hoist exercise Dec. 16 at Forward Operating Base Lagman.**

Photo by Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco, 20th Public Affairs Detachment

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## **Afghanistan Freedom Watch**

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan

*Freedom Watch* is a weekly publication of Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan.

CFC-A Commander Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry  
Public Affairs Officer Col. James R. Yonts

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# Tripartite Commission holds 14th meeting

**Combined Forces Command -  
Afghanistan Public Affairs  
Press Release**

**Kabul, Afghanistan --**  
The Tripartite Commission, composed of senior military and diplomatic representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Coalition forces in Afghanistan, held its 14th meeting here Dec. 15.

Delegates included Gen. Ahsan Saleem Hyat, vice chief of the army staff of Pakistan; Gen. Bismullah Khan, chief of staff of the Afghan National Army; and Army Lt. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry, commander of Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan. This meeting marked the first official visit of Hyat to Kabul.

The session began with

short summaries of the recent border security sub-committee meeting hosted by Pakistan and the Counter-IED and Military Intelligence-Sharing Working Group meetings hosted by Afghanistan here.

The parties agreed that they should continue further enhancements in cooperation, communication and intelligence sharing against extremists who threaten the peace, progress and stability in the region.

The delegations also briefly summarized the role their military forces played in relief efforts after the Oct. 8 earthquake in Pakistan, and discussed ways their forces could cooperate to continue relief efforts throughout the winter and respond to future

emergencies.

All parties agreed that military forces provide unique capabilities in such situations and that the deployment of Pakistani, U.S., Afghan and Coalition relief contingents enhanced the international relief efforts.

Pakistani officials appreciated and acknowledged the U.S., Afghan and other international humanitarian relief efforts for the victims of the earthquake.

The delegates examined the future of the Tripartite Commission and ways to expand their cooperative security efforts in other areas. The Coalition briefed its concept for expanding the existing Coalition-facilitated Afghan-Pakistani staff exchanges and gave an overview of the structure

and mission of its provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan.

For their part, Pakistani officials explained how their country is increasing stability in the tribal areas by combining security operations and socio-economic development through its own resources and with help from the United States.

This session marked the third time that NATO's International Security Assistance Force observers attended as guests of the Tripartite Commission.

All parties welcomed the observers and looked forward to the expanding NATO-ISAF role in Afghanistan.

The Tripartite Commission will meet here again in February.

## Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week



### Come with me

#### Dari

**Haum rahay man beya**  
(How-m rah-hay maun bay-ya)

#### Pashtu

**Ma sara raza**  
(Mah sah-rah rah-zah)

## Afghan cultural tidbit

***The Khyber Pass is a 53-kilometer, or 33-mile, passage through the Hindu Kush Mountain Range. It connects the northern frontier of Pakistan with Afghanistan. At its narrowest point, the pass is only 3 meters wide. The Khyber Pass is one of the most famous mountain passes in the world. It is one of the most important passes between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Conquering armies have used the pass as an entry point for their invasions. It has also been a major trade route for centuries.***

# Romanian president visits troops in Kandahar

By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- Romanian President Traian Basescu visited here Dec. 21 to tour the base and speak with Coalition and local leaders about Romania's assistance in the war on terrorism.

Basescu was accompanied by Teodor Atanasiu, the Romanian Minister of National Defense, and their consulates.

They met with U.S. Army Col. Kevin Owens, Task Force Bayonet commander, and Ghulam Jilani, the deputy governor of Kandahar Province, to discuss the future of the mission in Afghanistan.

"We are happy to help the Afghan nation," said Basescu in his meeting with Jilani. "We would like to stay friends with Afghanistan."

Jilani and his staff praised the Romanian assistance in securing this year's parliamentary elections and the presidential election in 2003.

Concerns for future assistance



Photo by Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco

**Romanian President Traian Basescu, left, greets Romanian troops at Kandahar Airfield during his visit Dec. 21.**

included additional support for the Afghan National Army and the development of civilian infrastructure in the province.

Basescu expressed a continuing pledge to assist Coalition allies in

transforming Afghanistan into a democratic nation.

After the meetings, Basescu and his staff attended dinner with the soldiers of the 151st Infantry Battalion, Owens and other Coalition leaders.

## PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Derrick L. Mims, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment (Task Force Storm)

**A British Harrier sits under cover as the sun sets on another busy day at Kandahar Airfield.**

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to [freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@baf.afgn.army.mil). Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

# Officer re-enlists brother in New York

By Army Sgt.

**Benjamin T. Donde**

*117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

**KABUL, Afghanistan** -- An Army officer deployed here re-enlisted his younger brother in Niagara Falls, N.Y. using video-conference technology Dec. 21.

"It felt great to be able to re-enlist my brother from a combat zone," said Capt. Kevin A. Reynolds, communications officer for Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan. "It is always a privilege to re-enlist a Soldier, but it is extra special when it is your brother."

It took people working together in Kabul, Afghanistan, Washington, Rochester, N.Y., and Niagara Falls, N.Y., to make the teleconference possible, Reynolds said.

"My brother asked if there was any way to return from Afghanistan to re-enlist him. That was never a possibility, so I suggested the teleconference," Reynolds said. "It is a great honor knowing that he could have selected any officer for the re-enlistment, but he was willing to make the extra effort and coordinate to re-enlist this way."

Reynolds' brother, Army Staff Sgt. James Maikranz, is a recruiter who has



Photo by Army Sgt. Benjamin T. Donde

**Army Capt. Kevin A. Reynolds, of Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan, raises his right hand and recites the oath of enlistment to his brother, Army Staff Sgt. James Maikranz, who repeats the oath as he watches from New York via a video teleconference.**

served for nine years and 11 months. He re-enlisted for another two years.

"To have my brother be the officer to swear me in, re-affirming my oath of enlistment, meant the world to me," Maikranz said.

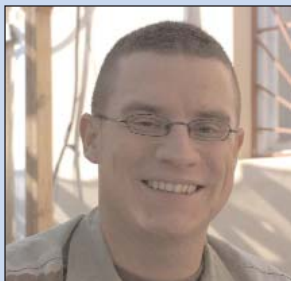
"My brother has been my mentor," he said. "My future plans in the Army are to lead Soldiers in every situation and give my Soldiers the confidence and

mentorship that my brother has given me."

Reynolds said the Army has done great things for him and his brother. "Being able to re-enlist him makes me know that he will continue to reap the benefits of being a Soldier while making the Army a better institution because of his service and leadership," Reynolds said.

## Enduring Voices

*What media outlet do you use to keep up with current events?*



Army Staff Sgt. Justin Kent, B Company, 159th Aviation Regiment  
*"Out here, I read the Freedom Watch a lot and go on the CJTF-76 Web site to read up on the local improvements I usually don't get to see."*



Travis Winton, Kellogg Brown and Root  
*"(http://www.cnn.com) -- We don't really get to keep up with newspapers or TV."*



Air Force Senior Airman James Mascal, 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Group  
*"Fox News, and Stars and Stripes."*



Army Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Raiti, Combined Joint Task Force-76  
*"MSNBC, CNN and Fox News mostly."*





Photo by Army Maj. Ruby Stewart

**Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Khatol Mohammadzai discusses accessing women into the ANA. She is a senior officer in the ANA. Mohammadzai is the first Afghan woman inducted into the International Women's Forum Hall of Fame.**

# International women's forum inducts female Afghan National Army officer

**By Army Maj. Ruby Stewart**  
*Office of Security Cooperation -  
 Afghanistan*

**KABUL, Afghanistan** -- Brig. Gen. Khatol Mohammadzai, a senior officer in the Afghan National Army, recently became the first Afghan woman inducted into the International Women's Forum Hall of Fame in Washington D.C., where she was recognized for the impact she has made on the lives of Afghans.

"Being invited to America is something I never thought would happen. I broke all the chains women have faced in my country to be here today. I am honored to be here with other strong women from all over the world," Mohammadzai said.

The forum, founded in 1982, is a private, nonprofit organization comprised of 61 affiliates in more than 20 countries throughout the world. Membership is by invitation only and includes some of the most powerful and influential women in the world, including Dalia Grybauskaite,

European Union commissioner for Financial Programming and Budget; Marsha Evans, American Red Cross president and CEO; U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters; and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Mohammadzai, Afghanistan's only female paratrooper, serves as the deputy head of the Afghan Ministry of Defense Education Department.

She was only 16 when she took her first leap for Afghan women by parachuting from an airplane.

In 1982, after her husband's death, she quit her studies in law at the University of Kabul and joined the army, eventually leading to a career spanning two decades.

Before the Taliban's reign, Afghanistan's army employed both men and women in a variety of specialties. Mohammadzai, the ANA's only female parachute instructor, was trained by the Soviets.

With more than 570 parachute jumps from helicopters and airplanes, plus

static and free-fall jumps, she ranks among the best of the ANA in this dangerous skill.

She has always championed the underprivileged, taking every chance to bring light to their situation. During a recent celebration, Mohammadzai parachuted into the event carrying a sign that read: "We want education, employment and salaries for widows, orphans and handicapped people." It was her first parachute jump in more than six years and she was greeted by cheering crowds that showered her with flowers.

Under the rule of the Taliban, when many Afghan officers escaped to neighboring countries, Mohammadzai stayed and continued to serve her countrymen and women.

The female paratrooper was forced to give up her passion and earned a living working from home through approved women's tasks such as sewing, weaving scarves and making mattresses.

She had to hide her uniform under the floorboards of her living room, but

**See FORUM, Page 7**

# Training puts Afghan Army troops on target

**By Army Maj. Chris Plummer**  
*Office of Security Cooperation - Afghanistan*

**KABUL, Afghanistan** -- To further hone the skills of the Afghan National Army, a team of Soldiers from the Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix Training Assistance Group is working with Afghan trainers to teach ANA basic trainees the fundamentals of rifle marksmanship.

These Soldiers, part of the Florida Army National Guard's 53rd Infantry Brigade, make up the basic rifle marksmanship team that mentors AK-47 assault rifle marksmanship training at the Kabul Military Training Center.

"An army is not an army unless it has capable, competent, trained soldiers who can hit what they aim at with their weapons," said Army Capt. Robert Ford Jr., the BRM team chief.

The team, which arrived here in July, and ANA trainers assessed the marksmanship program being used to train the ANA and decided that an overhaul of the system needed to take place.

As it stood, only 59 percent of ANA soldiers were able to qualify by placing at least 10 rounds out of 30 into a target from a distance of 100 meters. There was also no requalification or follow-on training for those soldiers who failed to meet the standard.

Noting this, the BRM team went right to work with the Afghan trainers and created a new marksmanship course that uses several proven rifle-training techniques.

The first of these techniques consists of the implementation of a "buddy" system. Any time an ANA soldier assumes a firing position, a fellow soldier monitors how he handles the rifle. This buddy, called a coach, gives the shooter feedback on how well he holds the weapon, positions his elbow and incorporates breathing and aiming techniques.

Another method used to increase the ANA soldiers' accuracy is called the "dime washer drills." Here, a shooter's coach balances a dime-sized washer on the barrel of the AK-47, and the shooter has to pull the trigger and make the hammer strike without allowing the washer to fall off. To successfully perform this drill,

the ANA soldiers have to learn how to properly control their breathing and grip on the weapon while firing.

"This technique is critical to building a good marksman," Ford said.

Additionally, the number of rounds the ANA soldiers use to zero-in their weapons was increased from 12 to 27, and the zero-range targets were moved up from the 100- to the 25-meter line. This allows the shooters to work on grouping their rounds close together while adjusting their sites to hit the center of the target.

Once the soldiers learn how to control their breathing while holding and firing their weapons, they attempt to qualify with the AK-47 at the firing range.

The impact of the new program on the ANA soldiers' marksmanship was immediately evident on the range. The qualification rate rose from 59 to 77 percent on the first firing attempt under the new system. It has been steadily increasing.

The ANA recruits at the training center have now attained a qualification rate of at least 90 percent. Those who fail to meet the firing standard are retrained and fire until they are able to qualify.

"This is just a great example here in Afghanistan of how the right people with the right resources can have a positive impact on the ANA," Ford said.

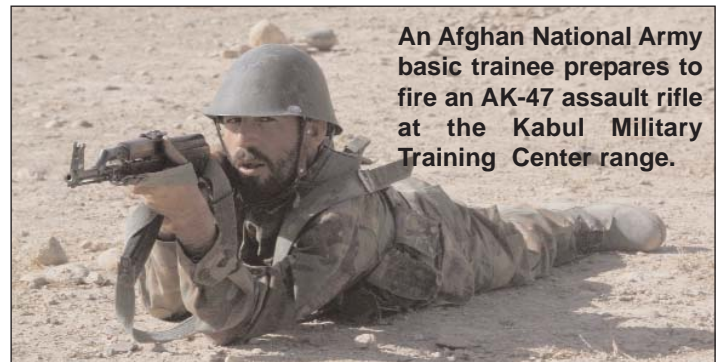


Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Victoria Meyer, Office of Security Cooperation - Afghanistan

## FORUM, from Page 6

that didn't stop her from trying to educate women. With her mother acting as a lookout, she taught local women how to read and write by candlelight in her home. She knew she was putting her life at risk by defying the Taliban, but she didn't care, she said.

"Education is important. Never stop learning and educating yourselves. You can become the future doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, technicians, policewomen and soldiers of a new Afghanistan. If I can do it, you can do it too," she explained.

After the Taliban were removed from power, she very promptly dug up her uniform, dusted it off and reported for duty.

Mohammadzai explained that she risks her life to serve as an example for Afghan women. "I serve my country because there is nothing more honorable than serving your country.

"I want a better future for my sons, for my sisters, for their children and for my mother. I do not like to be told I cannot do something. It makes me mad and makes me want to do it more," she said.

At the sold-out black tie gala in Washington D.C., Mohammadzai was

inducted into the IWF Hall of Fame alongside Supreme Court Justice Judge Ruth Bader Ginsberg and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

At the end of a five-minute video tribute in her honor, the crowd erupted when Mohammadzai, who is never seen without her uniform and chest full of medals, climbed the stairway and walked to the stage wearing traditional Afghan dress.

"Afghanistan has a rich history of art, agriculture, music, education. Afghan people are strong and resilient. They have endured enough in one lifetime. It is time for peace," she said.



# Medics train to extract wounded

By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco

20th Public Affairs Detachment

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan** -- Members of the 68th Medical Company, based in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, afforded Soldiers here a chance to learn how to use the personnel hoist on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter Dec. 15 and 16.

Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Lagman were taught by 68th Med. Co. crew chiefs on how to secure personnel into a hoist for emergency situations.

"The hoist is used to recover troops wounded in valleys that would be impossible for (a Black Hawk) to land in," said Army Staff Sgt. Adam Byington, a flight instructor and crew chief with the 68th Med. Co., from Boise, Idaho. "It saves lives."

The training gives pilots practice in hovering over one spot for any given length of time, and crew chiefs practice operating the hoist while giving the medics a chance to experience what goes on during an emergency situation, Byington said.

The training session was the first live-hoist exercise the 68th Med. Co. has conducted since arriving in Afghanistan in October, Byington said. Trainees were hoisted about 30 to 50 feet from the ground into the Black Hawk.

At the training, Soldiers learned how to strap someone into the hoist without the need to send another crew member to the ground.

The hoist runs off of the aircraft's electrical system and can lift as much as 600 pounds, Byington said. The hoist cable is 250 feet long, 230 of which can be effective for extraction.

As a safety feature, the winch will automatically slow down when it is within the first or last 10 feet of cable, Byington said.

This type of training has proven valuable here in the past.

On Oct. 25, Army Capt. Michael Stone, commander of 68th Med. Co., a native of San Diego, and his flight crew were flying on a mission supporting Coalition operations with Australian forces, Task Force-64, at a village about 25 miles northeast of Tarin Kowt.

An enemy was captured and had attempted to flee, but was wounded and needed to be lifted out of the area.

"They were in a really tight, narrow ravine when (TF-64) called saying they needed the hoist," Stone said. "They moved about 600 meters to a small landing zone. It wasn't big enough to land the aircraft, but plenty big for the hoist."

From a height of between 75 and 100 feet, Army Staff Sgt. Bradford Webster, a crew chief with 68th Med. Co., was lowered to first secure an Australian soldier and bring him into the aircraft.

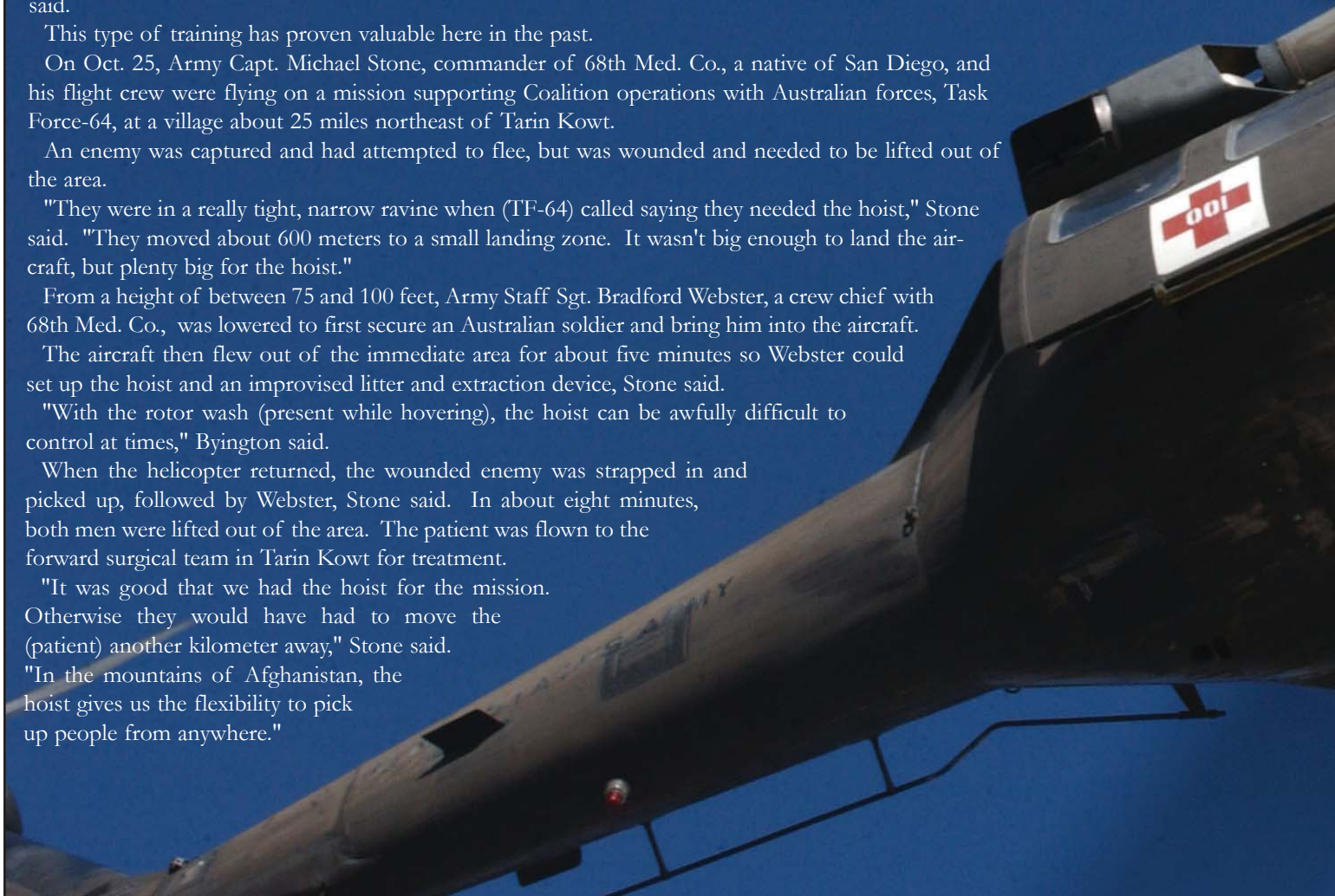
The aircraft then flew out of the immediate area for about five minutes so Webster could set up the hoist and an improvised litter and extraction device, Stone said.

"With the rotor wash (present while hovering), the hoist can be awfully difficult to control at times," Byington said.

When the helicopter returned, the wounded enemy was strapped in and picked up, followed by Webster, Stone said. In about eight minutes, both men were lifted out of the area. The patient was flown to the forward surgical team in Tarin Kowt for treatment.

"It was good that we had the hoist for the mission. Otherwise they would have had to move the (patient) another kilometer away," Stone said.

"In the mountains of Afghanistan, the hoist gives us the flexibility to pick up people from anywhere."





# led troops by helicopter



Army Staff Sgt. Adam Byington prepares a hoist for extracting wounded troops during an exercise Dec. 16 at Forward Operating Base Lagman. Byington is a flight instructor and crew chief with 68th Med. Co., Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

This mine roller offers Soldiers protection against improvised explosive devices. It was built by mechanics from 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Lagman.

Photo by Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco



## Mine roller offers protection for troops

By Army Pfc. Vincent Fusco  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE LAGMAN, Afghanistan** -- A trailer pushed by a Humvee may look strange, but there's a reason why this cart is put before the horse.

This odd device is called a "mine roller," so dubbed by its creators, the mechanics of 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

"We were tired of seeing our fellow Soldiers get injured and killed by (improvised explosive devices)," said Army Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Waltman, the 2nd Bn., 503rd PIR maintenance officer and native of Colorado Springs, Colo. "This device came from the need to defeat pressure-plate IEDs."

The mine roller was built with parts from nonservicable equipment, such as the front end of a Humvee, a generator trailer and pieces of a maintenance Gator. Over a period of four months, the maintenance Soldiers of 2-503rd put their heads and the salvaged equipment together in a process of creating and improving the

design.

The central idea of the design was for it to be modular, towable and able to achieve speeds of 25 mph on paved roads, Waltman said.

The mine roller is attached to the Humvee by connecting the hitch, headlamp wires and steering column.

The roller is "driven" from the passenger side of the Humvee.

It requires a small degree of skill and coordination with the other driver to work, said Army Pfc. Jeremiah Peterson, a 2-503rd mechanic from Hammond, Ind.

"We've had the (explosive ordnance disposal) team here make some (simulated) pressure plate IEDs for us to run over and test," Waltman said.

The wheelbase of the roller is the same as a Humvee, and each tire weighs about 130 pounds. Two 50-pound Gator tires, filled with water, roll in the center.

"We thought (anti-Coalition militia) might decide to put IEDs in the middle of the road, so we put those center wheels in," said Army Cpl. Eugenio Gonzales, a 2-503rd mechanic and driver, a native of

Hartford, Conn.

As a safety measure, if the roller triggers an explosion, a cable to the Humvee frame becomes taut and keeps it from flipping over and crushing the drivers inside.

In addition, the front end of the Humvee is up-armored over existing armor.

"Three years ago ... we were the first unit to up-armor our own vehicles ourselves," Waltman said.

With some old-fashioned ingenuity, unwanted equipment and creative minds, the maintenance Soldiers of 2-503rd have created a unique machine to combat the ever-present and unpredictable threat of IEDs.

"I couldn't be prouder of the guys," Waltman said. "They put a lot of work into it, even on their off-time."

Waltman said he sees the mine roller as a good addition to route clearance packages that survey the area.

"I feel pretty confident that it'll save lives here," Peterson said.

Waltman added, "If it saves one life, it'll all be worth it."



Army Cpl. Eugenio Gonzales, right, drives a Humvee as Army Pfc. Jeremiah Peterson steers the mine roller during a test run on Forward Operating Base Lagman. Gonzales and Peterson are assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.





Air Force Staff Sgt. Bryan Vaden levels a section of concrete leading to the new ramp at Kandahar Airfield. Vaden is from the 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group. Following a \$7 million construction project, warfighters can expect to see more than 150,000 square feet of additional ramp space at Kandahar early this year.



# Red Horse team maintains smooth operations into, out of Kandahar

**By Air Force Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald**  
**455th Air Expeditionary Wing**  
**Public Affairs**

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- A team of about 20 Red Horse engineers from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., are doing their part to keep flights coming in and out of here supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

As part of a \$7 million construction project, warfighters can expect to see more than 150,000 square feet of additional ramp space here early this year.

"The second phase of this project ... involves placing 6,000 cubic feet of concrete and 1,200 tons of asphalt, which will increase the ramp space here by 151,200 square feet," said Air Force Capt. Kelly McAtee, 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group project engineer and officer in charge. "We've just finished the concrete portion and expect the finished product to be complete in January."

In the first phase, the Red Horse engi-

neers placed 17,800 tons of base course, 14,600 cubic yards of concrete and 640 tons of asphalt to construct a 320,000-square foot parking ramp for Coalition mobility aircraft.

"The ramp allowed the return of the terminal and ramp space in front of the terminal -- as an international airport -- to the Afghan government in time for the Hajj pilgrimage [to Mecca, Saudi Arabia], which began Dec. 1," said McAtee, a native of St. Helens, Ore.

Soon after their arrival here in July, the Red Horse engineers completed a \$2.1 million construction project supporting Coalition aircraft.

"In this project, our team excavated 17,500 cubic yards of material and placed 13,100 tons of base course," McAtee explained. "Our efforts allowed the British Royal Engineers to construct a 236,400 square foot concrete ramp for close-air support aircraft."

Whether it's a resupply mission to keep the base stocked with supplies or a combat mission to provide support for troops in

contact, the team's efforts are proving beneficial.

"My Airmen are doing their part to improve the space we have on the ramp and keep flying missions in and out of here," the captain said. "It's great to see the progress they're making to support U.S. and Coalition warfighters on the ground and in the air."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Matthew Couch, a pavements and equipment craftsman, said his job gives him and his fellow Red Horse engineers a sense of accomplishment.

"It's very important for us to deploy over here and complete our projects in support of this war effort," Couch said. "When we leave Afghanistan, we'll know we've left our mark for generations to come."

Air Force Senior Airman Jared Morris, also a pavements and equipment journeyman, said he enjoys serving his country during this time in history.

"This part of the world has never experience freedom," Morris said. "Freedom is a world endeavor that everyone has the right to."



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald

Engineers from the 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group level a section of concrete leading to the new ramp at Kandahar Airfield. About 20 Red Horse engineers are deployed here from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

# Trauma Surgical Committee meets to discuss agenda

**By Navy Lt. Jet Ramos**  
*Defense Medical Readiness  
 Training Institute*

**FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas --** The Department of Defense Combat Trauma Surgical Committee held their annual meeting here and the future of military trauma medicine was high on the agenda.

The committee coordinates sustainable combat trauma surgery training programs and recommends tri-service policy changes to improve combat trauma outcomes.

The committee was formed as a direct result of several DOD and General Accounting Office reports on medical operations during the Gulf War that questioned the military's ability to meet its wartime medical mission -- particularly in providing trauma care.

In the past nine years, the committee has assessed policy, made recommendations and established trauma training standards and initiatives that have closed the trauma training gap.

"The tri-service membership of the committee has crossed service lines to improve casualty care," said Air Force Dr. (Lt. Col.) Donald Jenkins, the chief of trauma at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

"Every person in the room leaves their service pride objectives outside the door, and we talk just about the wounded troop," he said. "No one

talks bad about each other. There are only honest recommendations. Everyone in the room is a high powered, high ranking, very senior member of this corporation of military health-care and keeps the focus on the wounded troop."

"It is unparalleled," he said.

Army Dr. (Col.) David Burris said, "The CTSC has made significant strides partnering with civilian trauma training centers, whose caseloads match battlefield injuries."

Burris is chairman of surgery at the Uniformed Services University of Health Science in Bethesda, Md.

"At first, the goal was to have a joint trauma training center," Burris said.

"Today, we have three trauma training centers, the Army Trauma Training Center in Miami, the Air Force Trauma Training Center in Baltimore and the Navy Trauma Training Center in Los Angeles.

"While there are specific training centers for the services, the curriculum is the same and the student seats are interchangeable," he said.

Jenkins likes what the committee has done in laying the foundation for future military trauma medicine.

"Because of the work of CTSC members, the Emergency War Surgery Handbook was created," he said. "This handbook was turned over to the next generation of trauma leaders, who used it as the foundation for the Emergency War Surgery Course."

Formerly known as the Trauma Refresher Course for Surgeons, this three-day course, held at various locations, is a standardized training program that gives medical personnel exposure to critical life saving skills necessary to sustain the force that will fight and win the wars of today and in the future.

Jenkins will be the next theater trauma director in Iraq. He will replace an Army surgeon for about six months starting in the spring. His duties will include serving as a consultant to maintain a theater-wide joint expeditionary trauma network to provide the optimal management of traumatically injured troops.

"Someone said that the system was broken at one time, but it's fixed now," Jenkins said. "We're doing great stuff, and now we have the tools in place to fine tune it."

He said improvements can still be made in the business processes between the services.

"A lot of good things are happening in the grassroots," he said. "For example, the recommendation of putting an Air Force person in an Army system to direct trauma care in the theater is huge.

"While there is evidence of improvements across service lines, the system needs to be fine-tuned so processes will work on a continual basis and not be dependent on individuals," Jenkins said.



## Combat Santa!

Army Capt. Peter Perzel mans a machine gun at Forward Operating Base Ghazni. Perzel is the commander for Task Force 510th Postal Company. He had just finished giving out "Any Soldier" gifts that his Soldiers had gathered for the occasion.

Photo by Army Spc. Tiffany Evans, 20th Public Affairs Detachment.





Photos by Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie

Soldiers from 164th Military Police Company stand in formation after being presented Combat Action Badges.



(Above) Army Sgt. Patricia Shields, right, receives a Combat Action Badge from Army Brig. Gen. James Hirai.

(Left) Army Brig. Gen. James Hirai, left, presents Army Pfc. Donovan Smith with a Combat Action Badge at a ceremony Dec. 23.

## Military police awarded Combat Action Badges

By Army Sgt. James-Denton Wyllie  
20th Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** -- Army military policemen who put their lives on the line supporting Operation Enduring Freedom were recognized for their actions under fire during a ceremony Dec. 23.

Former U.S. Army Alaska commander, Brig. Gen. James Hirai presented Combat Action Badges to 38 Soldiers from the 164th Military Police Company, out of Fort Richardson, Alaska.

After pinning the "Arctic Warriors" with their badges, Hirai spoke with the Soldiers at length about the importance of their service in the present and in the future.

"It's a great award that they have received today," Hirai said. "It's one that they have earned in combat."

"Their families back in Alaska should be proud of what they have accomplished," he said.

Hirai is the acting chief for the Office of Security Cooperation - Afghanistan.



# *Freedom Watch*

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**“If you want others to be happy,  
practice compassion. If you want  
to be happy, practice compassion.”**

**---The Dalai Lama**